

Message Text

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FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS FROM KATZ

E.O. 11652:

TAGS: ENRG

SUBJ: STATUS OF ENERGY LEGISLATION

1. HOUSE COMMERCE COMMITTEE TODAY VOTED DOWN AMENDMENT OFFERED BY BUD BROWN AND SUPPORTED BY THE DEPARTMENT WHICH INTER ALIA WOULD HAVE ELIMINATED THE PROVISION IN THE DINGELL COMMITTEE DRAFT GIVING EITHER HOUSE OF CONGRESS A VETO OVER IMPLEMENTATION OF CONTINGENCY ENERGY CONSERVATION PLANS. THE AMENDMENT WOULD HAVE ALLOWED FOR PRIOR CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF CONTINGENCY PLANS.

2. HOPE IS NOT LOST, HOWEVER, AS SOME DEMOCRATS APPARENTLY OBJECTED TO OTHER ASPECTS OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT AND MAY BE WILLING TO SUPPORT OUR POSITION ON THE CONTINGENCY PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AUTHORITY. THEY REPORTEDLY FEEL THE PROVISIONS IN THE PRESENT BILL ARE TOO CUMBERSOME TO BE WORKABLE IN AN EMERGENCY. SOME ALSO ARE RELUCTANT TO HAVE CONGRESS TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONSERVATION MEASURES DURING AN EMERGENCY.

3. MAJORITY COUNSEL IS DRAFTING ANOTHER AMENDMENT WHICH
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WOULD SUBSTITUTE DEPARTMENT'S POSITION FOR THE PRESENT

LANGUAGE. ALSO, AT BUD BROWN'S REQUEST WE ARE CONTACTING SEVERAL KEY DEMOCRATS IN AN EFFORT TO BRING THEM INTO LINE.

4. THE FULL HOUSE IS VOTING ON AMENDMENTS TO THE WAYS AND MEANS BILL, WHICH IS TAKING A POUNDING. THE HOUSE EXPECTS TO CONTINUE UNTIL 2100 TONIGHT AND PERHAPS UNTIL MIDNIGHT TOMORROW.

5. YESTERDAY, AN ATTEMPT BY SAM GIBBONS TO CUT IMPORT QUOTAS OUT OF THE BILL WAS BARELY DEFEATED 224 TO 185. SUPPORTERS OF THE GIBBONS AMENDMENT INCLUDED A LARGE REPUBLICAN BLOC PLUS CONGRESSMEN FROM NEW ENGLAND AND OTHER AREAS HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON IMPORTS. TODAY, HOWEVER, THE HOUSE VOTED TO INCREASE THE QUOTA LEVELS CONSIDERABLY ABOVE THOSE PROPOSED IN THE WAYS AND MEANS BILL.

6. THE HOUSE KILLED YESTERDAY A PROPOSAL TO CREATE STANDBY MACHINERY THAT WOULD EMPOWER THE GOVERNMENT TO BECOME THE SOLE PURCHASING AGENT FOR FOREIGN OIL.

7. AT THIS MOMENT THE VOTE IS BEING TAKEN ON THE STARK AMENDMENT WHICH WOULD ELIMINATE THE PROVISION IN THE BILL WHICH WOULD ALLOW GASOLINE TAXES TO GO AS HIGH AS 23 CENTS A GALLON. THE VOTE IS RUNNING OVERWHELMINGLY IN FAVOR OF THE AMENDMENT.

8. WE WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS. KISSINGER

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